

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## Michigan Intrastate USDOT Numbers

1. **Question:** Who needs to obtain a Michigan Intrastate USDOT number?

**Answer:** All carriers or operators of commercial motor vehicles that operate solely in the state of Michigan. A Commercial Motor Vehicle means any self-propelled or towed motor vehicle used on a highway in commerce as defined in Act 181, PA 1963, CFR 49, part 390.5 when the vehicle:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, of 10,001 lbs. or more, whichever is greater; or
- Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
- Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or
- Is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 51 transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary under 49 CFR, subtitle B, chapter 1, subchapter C.

2. **Question:** Who is included in the term commercial motor vehicle in commerce?

**Answer:** Anyone who operates one of the above mentioned vehicles. Examples include, but are not limited to: private and for-hire companies, farmers, construction companies, plumbers, landscapers, church buses, and limousines. Recreational and personal use vehicles are excluded.

3. **Question:** What are the requirements for lettering my vehicle?

**Answer:** 49 CFR part 390.21 states the marking must display the following information:

- The legal name or a single trade name of the motor carrier operating the self-propelled CMV, as listed on the motor carrier identification report (Form MCS-150)
- The motor carrier identification number issued by the FMCSA, preceded by the letters "USDOT"
- If the name of any person other than the operating carrier appears on the CMV, the name of the operating carrier must be followed by the information required in the above paragraphs, and be preceded by the words "operated by"
- Be in letters that contrast sharply in color with the background on which the letters are placed;
- Be readily legible, during daylight hours, from a distance of 50 feet (15.24 meters) while the CMV is stationary; and

The marking section **does not** apply to a truck eligible for and registered under a farm or manufacturer license plate, that has a gross vehicle weight of less than 10,000 pounds. **These vehicles still must obtain a USDOT number.**

*EXAMPLE:*

BB Express  
USDOT 12345

NOTE: By meeting the requirements in FMCSR 390.21 listed above a carrier and/or operator also meet the requirements of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code, Section 257.723.

4. **Question:** How do I apply for a USDOT number?

**Answer:** The following are options for applying for a USDOT number:

- You may apply on-line at <http://www.safersys.org> .
  - Select the “FMCSA Registration & Updates” link to start the registration process.
- Call The Michigan Public Service Commission toll-free at (888)464-8736.

5. **Question:** Is there a fee to obtain a USDOT number?

**Answer:** There is **NO Cost** to obtain a USDOT number. This is a **free** service.

6. **Question:** I went to the FMCSA website to obtain a USDOT number and it asked for a credit card. Why does it ask for a credit card if this is a free service?

**Answer:** It is a free service. The website asks for a credit card only to verify the application and to act as an electronic signature.

7. **Question:** How long will it take to get my USDOT number?

**Answer:** If you choose to obtain a USDOT number on-line, the time to process the number is approximately one hour. If you choose to submit the application by mail or fax, please allow approximately two weeks for processing.

8. **Question:** Do I need a different USDOT number for each of my vehicles?

**Answer:** No, the USDOT number is for your company and all vehicles that meet the definition of a commercial motor vehicle as specified in question #1.

9. **Question:** I applied for my USDOT number on the FMCSA website and it indicated that there is a verification period, but it also gave me my USDOT number. Will the USDOT number change or is the number I received the number I will be assigned?

**Answer:** The verification period is for FMCSA to verify your information. The USDOT number you are provided at the time you completed your on-line application is the number you are assigned and it will not change.

10. **Question:** How can I access my information or make changes to my MCS-150 application at a later date?

**Answer:** You may access your carrier information and make changes and updates to your MCS-150 by applying for a PIN (personal identification number). Intrastate carriers may obtain a PIN by following these steps:

- Go to [www.safersys.org](http://www.safersys.org).
- Click on "FMCSA Registration and Updates."
- Click "Other."
- Click "I want to request a copy of a document."
- Click the "Continue" button.
- Click the first "Yes" button for a USDOT number PIN.
- Enter your issued USDOT number into the blank and click on "Mail me a new PIN"; click on the "Submit" button.
- Your PIN will be mailed to the address on your MCS-150.

11. **Question:** I have a pick up truck that I use for my company and it weighs less than 10,001 lbs. I understand that the marking requirement doesn't apply to me, but I occasionally haul a trailer putting me over a combination weight of 10,001 lbs. What do you suggest?

**Answer:** If you do not want to permanently mark your pick up truck you may choose to use removable devices (i.e., magnetic signs) that can be placed on the pick up truck when you are towing the trailer and exceed 10,001 lbs. *The use of removable devices is not allowed for towing or platform bed wrecker road service vehicles.*

12. **Question:** Is it required that the name on my vehicle registration match the name on my MCS-150?

**Answer:** No, the name you display on your vehicle and the name you register under on your USDOT number application (MCS-150) **must** match, however the name on your registration does not. *Example: My company name is Smith Trucking, but my truck is registered to Jon Smith. Your MCS-150 would show Smith Trucking as the carrier and this is also the name you display on your vehicle.*

13. **Question:** Where may I travel after receiving the intrastate USDOT number?

**Answer:** The intrastate USDOT number allows you to travel anywhere in the State of Michigan. It is not valid to travel interstate (outside the boundaries of Michigan). If at anytime you need to operate in commerce outside the State of Michigan simply update your MCS-150 to reflect interstate rather than intrastate.

14. **Question:** Will I receive something in writing verifying my USDOT number?

**Answer:** Yes, you will either receive a notification letter in the mail verifying your USDOT number or a computer generated response upon the conclusion of filing on-line. Please carry a copy of your notification in all vehicles until you are able to display the USDOT number on your vehicle.

15. **Question:** Is there a deadline for me to get an intrastate USDOT number?

**Answer:** Yes, the State of Michigan is requiring that all carriers and operators of commercial motor vehicles apply for a USDOT number prior to January 1, 2008. The USDOT Number must be displayed on each commercial motor vehicle prior to January 1, 2009. If a USDOT number is not applied for and displayed prior to the dates listed above it will be a violation of law and subject to enforcement action

16. **Question:** Is this a new law?

**Answer:** No, this law was adopted by Michigan in 1990; however the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) did not have the technology to process Intrastate USDOT numbers. The technology is now in place to assist companies with the process and the law will now be applied.

17. **Question:** Why is getting an intrastate USDOT number important and what are the benefits?

**Answer:** The main objective of this program is to enhance highway safety by reducing serious and fatal crashes involving a CMV. In addition, provide accurate data to identify existing safety concerns or emerging trends which will allow for a more efficient and effective deployment of the state's resources.